

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01716 201116Z

11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-02

PM-07 SAM-01 NSC-07 M-02 OPR-02 PA-04 RSC-01 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1268

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1716

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S TRAVEL PLANS

REF: DAMASCUS 1695 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM DEPARTED THIS AFTERNOON (AUGUST 20) FOR LONDON EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON. HE PLANS TO REMAIN IN LONDON OVERNIGHT AND WILL BE CALLING ON BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS. HE EXPECTS TO DEPART LONDON AT 1330 LONDON TIME ON AUGUST 21 VIA BA FLIGHT 521 ON A DIRECT FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON ARRIVING 1640 WASHINGTON TIME. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY RAFIQ UOUEJATI, INSTEAD OF MR. ABU FARES AS WERE PREVIOUSLY INFORMED. MR. JOUEJATI SERVED AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN THE ZLRIAN UN MISSION IN NEW YORK FOR MANY YEARS AND IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES AND PLANNING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS OPENLY PRO-AMERICA.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPARTURE, BOTH KHADDAM AND JOUEJATI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A CALL COULD BE MADE ON PRESIDENT FORD. BOTH ASKED THAT I CONVEY THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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FOR MY PART I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE REQUEST BE

HONORED IF THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, SUCH A GESTURE
WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO ALLEVIATE FEARS HERE ABOUT THE RECENT
TRANSITION IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS CONFIRM THE EMERGING
US-SYRIAN FRIENDSHIP. IN THIS REGARD JOUEJATI TOLD ME
SOTTO VOCE THAT THE CALL WOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN KHADDAM'S
"MODERATE AND GROWING PRO-AMERICAN POSITION IN THE REGIME."

3. AFTER WASHINGTON VISIT KHADDAM PLANS TRAVEL TO PARIS
WHERE HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.
SCOTES

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